

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CARR-382

0703829510

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Opera House, Odd Fellows' Hall

AND/OR COMMON

Opera House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

140 East Main Street (MD 32)

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Carroll

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☒ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

George E. Trump

Telephone #: 374-2404

STREET & NUMBER

26 North Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21157**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Carroll County Office Building

Liber #: 588

Folio #: 38

STREET & NUMBER

Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE
Maryland**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Westminster Bicentennial Celebration

DATE

October, 1964

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Carroll County Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE
Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Sometimes used as an Opera House, sometimes as an Odd Fellows' Hall, sometimes as a sewing factory, number 140 East Main Street has, in the past, proven to be a very adaptable building. It looks north at the southwest corner of the intersection of East Main Street (Md. Route 32) and Lincoln Road in Westminster on lot 13 of "New London". The Bastille-like north (entrance) front of the building is defined by "3" - it is 3 stories tall, 3 bays wide, and built in 3 sections (with a western addition) in a U shape. In the center of the ground floor, above a low coursed fieldstone foundation, is the double entrance door. An 1887 engraving shows the doors to have been panelled, with an 8-light transom. Today they are all glass, each has 18 lights, with a transom (for both) of 21 lights. The door, now as then, has a simple 3-part bracketed denticulated entablature. On each of the 2 stories above (the central section is recessed about five feet) is a double window, each with 6/6 panes, and an entablature similar to the door's. Above the third floor, the flat Flemish Bond walls continue up 10 feet to hide the tin hipped roof; this stage set is pierced by a central round window (which is bordered with a soldier course) and is topped by a simple two-post entablature. The flanking sections are identical to each other; each has a ground floor 6/6 window, an elongated 6/6 window on each of the second and third floors; the central sections' round window is repeated, as are the windows' entablatures. Sometime after 1887, a recessed 6 course common bond three-story section was added to the west; it has a ground floor many-panelled double door with a six-light transom, and one 6/6 window per floor above, treated similarly to those on the other sections. The section's shed roof slopes to the south, and has a simple 2-part entablature to the north, a more elaborate 2-part denticulated entablature above the blind west front.

Opposite, the east front is in two sections; a five bay original section and a three-bay shed-roofed southern addition. Both are laid in five course common bond. Originally, all but one of the 15 bays of the front section were 6/6 windows. Since then the former door (the rear ground floor bay) has become a window, and three former windows (from the north, the second and third second story bays and the fourth third story bay) have become doors. Another change occurred when an 8-panel door was added towards the north of the ground floor; the door repeats the north facade's windows. The section is topped by a two-part denticulated entablature similar to that on the west facade.

The southern wing's shed roof is covered with corrugated sheet metal (as is the main section's hipped roof). Below it are three 6/6 second story windows with, on the ground floor, a single panel door to the south, and two eight-light casement windows. All windows in both sections have white wooden sills and three course gauged flat arches. The old engraving indicates a significant raising of the streets during the past 100 years. The main entrance door is now flush with the sidewalk (it then had a fligh

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1858

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although the main facade of the "Old Opera House" seems to be excessively praised or damned locally, it is difficult to deny the basic truth that the texture of East Main Street would be radically altered without it. Except for the Fire Hall, and the tower of the now doomed St. John's Church, the south side of East Main seems to have a self-imposed 40' building height limitation. Moreover the last two structures break the ceiling by means of slender spires - the Opera House does it massively in its full 50' width. Although some enthusiasts have attempted to create a 300 year old link between this pile and Hardwicke Hall, probably a lessed forced conceit would be to attempt to compare its stark facade with the uncompromising nature of the new brutalism, or with Victorian factory designs. (The building did, in fact, serve as a factory, but a century too late - from 1951 to 1975.) This frank power is in marked contrast to the general coziness of the rest of Main Street.

Fittingly, stories about the building are few, and are also brutal in nature; during the Civil War/Reconstruction period, when local feelings were strained, one show at the Opera House featured satiric impersonations of Lincoln, Grant, etc. The next morning the decapitated body of the entertainer was found in the rear stables. (This is by way of the present owner.)

During the early 19th century (c. 1820) the lot was the site of Jacob Mathias' tanyard, shop, and residence. Mathias sold the lot to the International Order of Odd Fellows (Carroll County Deed Book 16, Page 530, May 13, 1854) for \$375, who kept title, under various names, until they sold it to the L. Needles Brookes Realty Company on January 2, 1926 (146/456). This Company quickly passed title to T. Arthur Smith and Anne Davidson Smith on October 4, 1927, whose trustee sold the place, after their deaths, to the Carroll Amusement Company on November 2, 1944 (185/22, Equity case no. 7585). As noted, it became a sewing factory when the English-American Tailoring Company took title on April 4, 1951 (208/238), until the present owners, George E. Trump, bought the place on Washington's Birthday, 1975 (588/38).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being all of lot 13 in the town of New London now in Westminster.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Christopher Weeks, Consultant

December, 1976

ORGANIZATION

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

A7

of five steps) and the east facade had visible cellar windows - only the 3 course gauged flat arches remain.

The south facades of the two sections are chaotic - there is a boarded-over door to the west in the main section, with two windows (1/6 and 1/4) bays on the second floor (a central door and four 6/6 windows) with only the first and fourth (from the east) having arches (3 courses, gauged and flat). The three western ground floor windows have been filled-in by cinder blocks and bricks; there is a central large delivery door (probably dating from the sewing factory days). Iron fire escapes decorate the east and south facades, rising three floors on the east and two on the south.

Westminster Opera House (Odd Fellows Hall)
CARR-382
140 E. Main Street (MD 32)
Westminster Vicinity
Carroll County, MD
Catoctin Center for Regional Studies
Frederick Community College
July 2009

Addendum

Number 8 Page 2

In October 1870 the famous African American speaker and leader Frederick Douglass gave a speech in this hall. Local Westminster newspaper *The American Sentinel* reported:

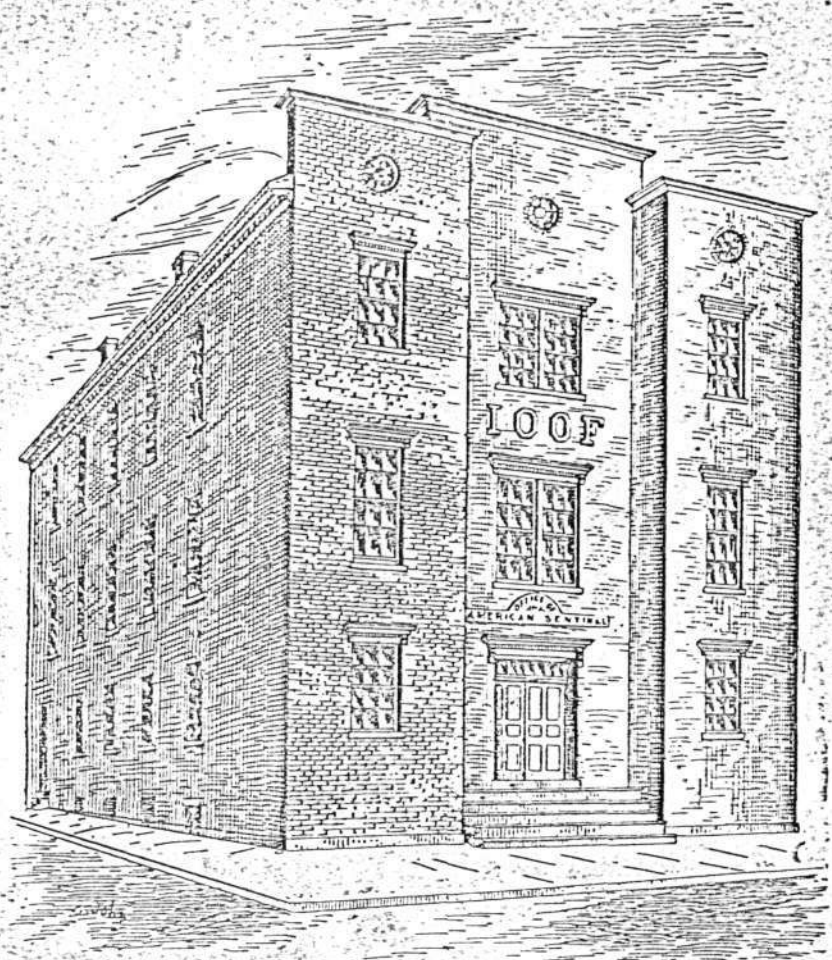
FREDERICK DOUGLASS – This renowned colored orator delivered an address at Odd Fellows' Hall, on last Thursday night, which greatly delighted those who were fortunate enough to hear it. Owing to certain circumstances the audience was limited, but the opinion of all present was that Mr. Douglass ranks, as an orator, among the very ablest of our country. His address was entirely extempore, although a regular address had been prepared by the speaker to be used on the occasion. Mr. Douglass' oratory does not consist in high sounding, transcendental phrases, but is chaste, pure and logical, showing a degree of culture which any man might be proud to attain. Even those who listened to him with all the prevailing prejudice against his race, were compelled to acknowledge his power and intellectual ability.

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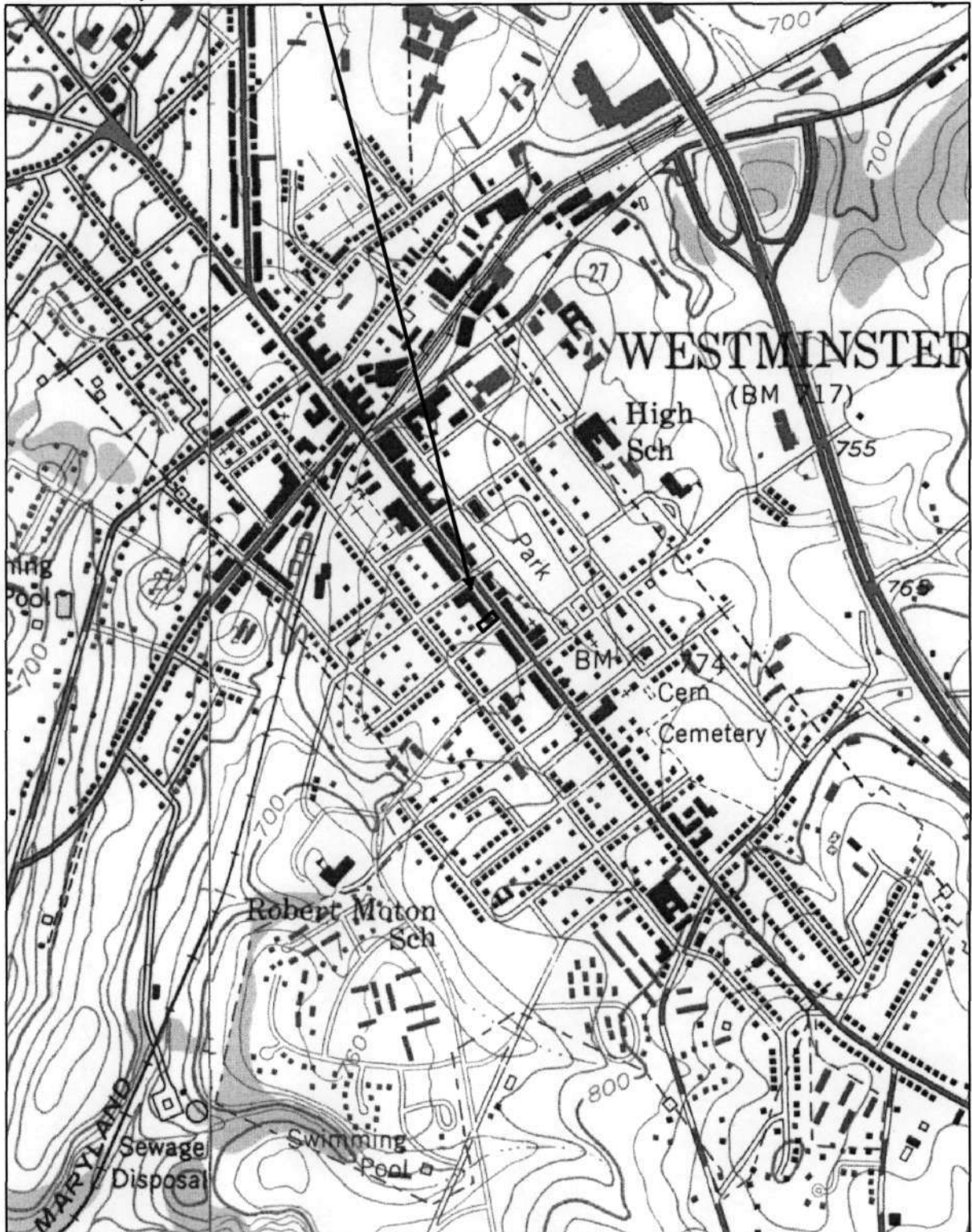
Number 9 Page 2

American Sentinel, 13 October 1870.



ODD FELLOWS' HALL.

CARR-382
Westminster Opera House (Odd Fellows Hall)
East Main Street
Westminster
Westminster Quad
Carroll County





CARE-382

A 4 1 1 5 1 1 D



CARR-382

A 4 1 1 5 1 1 D



CA RR-382

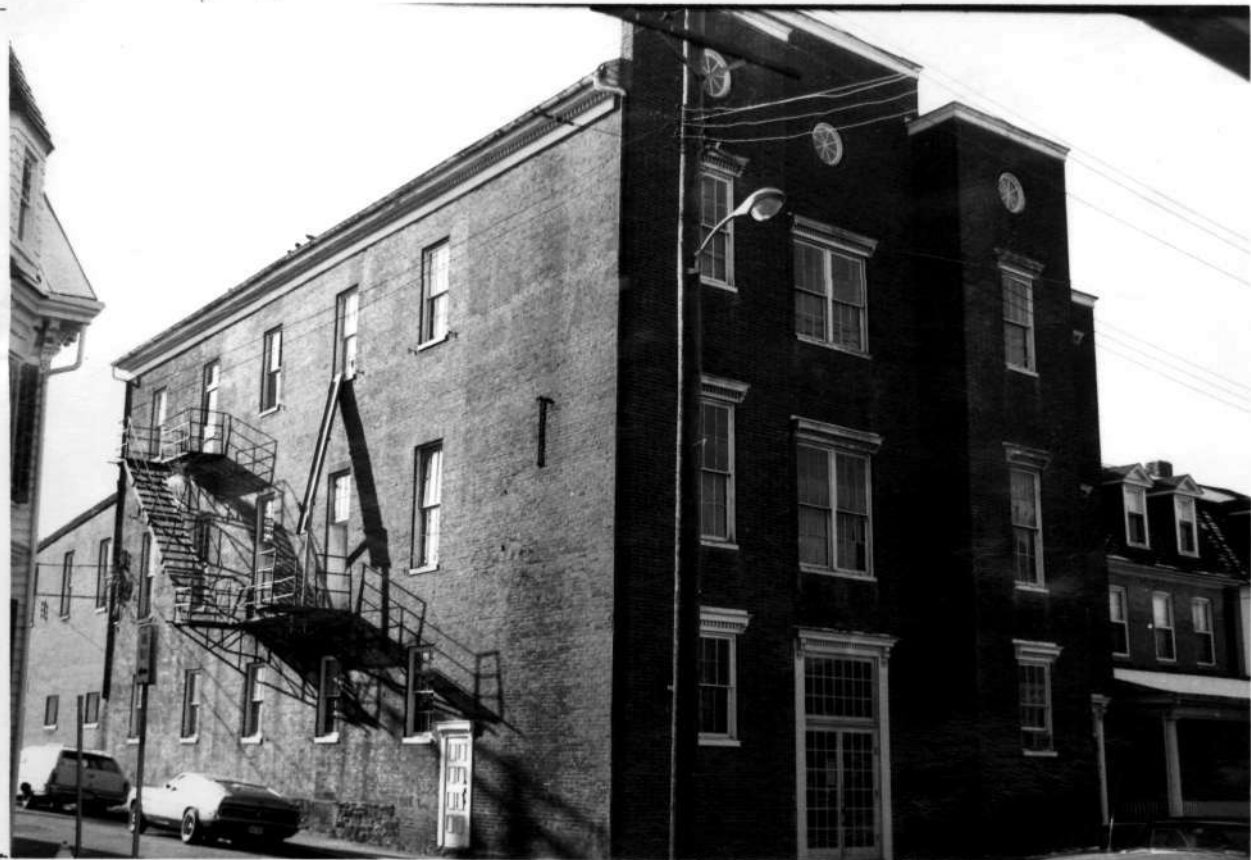
A 4 1 1 5 1 1 D



CARR 382

140 E. Main St.
Wheatridge, CO
NE facade

C. Wicks 2/77



History
Section

80

S.S.

p. 524

LXXI

Inventory Section

~~B-1~~

B-15

43%

CARR 382

140 E. Main St.

Westminster

"Opera House"

N. Juvenile

11/76 C. West

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CARR-382

Property Name: Westminster Opera House
Digital Photograph File Log

Page 1 of 1

Ink Used: Epson UltraChrome pigmented inks
Paper Used: Epson Premium Luster Photo Paper
Date: September 4, 2009

File Name	Photo Description	Photographer
CARR-382_2009-07-22_01	North view, façade	Jenna Gianni
CARR-382_2009-07-22_02	Northeast view, façade	Jenna Gianni
CARR-382_2009-07-22_03	Northwest view, façade and side	Jenna Gianni
CARR-382_2009-07-22_04	Southwest view, side & addition	Jenna Gianni
CARR-382_2009-07-22_05	façade, entrance door	Jenna Gianni



CARR-382

Westminster Opera House, 140 E. Main St. (MD32)

Carroll County, Maryland

Jenna Gianni

07/2009

MHT Digital Archive

N view, inside

1/5



CARR-382

Westminster Opera House, HOE. Mainst.
(MD32)

Carroll County, Maryland

Jenna Gianni

07/2009

MHT Digital Archive

NE view, facade

2/5



CARR-382

Westminster Opera House, 140 E. Main St. (MD 32)

Carroll County, Maryland

Jenna Gianni

07/2009

MHT Digital Archive

NW view, facade + west side

3/5



CARR - 382

Westminster Opera House, HOE Main St. (MD32)

Carroll County, Maryland

Tenna Gianni

07/2009

MHT Digital Archive

SW view, west side + addition

4/5



CARR - 382

Westminster Opera House, 140 E. Main St.
(MD32)

Carroll County, Maryland

Jenna Gianni

07/2009

MHT Digital Archive

N view, facade

5/5